

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8140
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION USNATO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 14767

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, CH, BE
SUBJECT: NEW PRC AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND EC

REF: STATE 13139 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PEKING'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE
EC, CLEARLY CHARGED WITH EXPANDING THE GOOD NEIGHBOR
POLICY INAUGURATED IN THIS CAPITAL BY HIS PREDECESSOR,
HAS CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS ON NEUTRAL GROUND WITH THE
AMBASSADOR AND SACEUR GENERAL HAIG. HE FOLLOWS UP
WITH AN HOUR LONG COURTESY CALL, BRINGING HIS WIFE,
ON THE AMBASSADOR AT HER RESIDENCE. AMBASSADOR
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K'ANG MAO CHAO STRESSES FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR
U.S. AND CONDEMNS SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN ZAIRE.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 17 DINNER GIVEN BY THE AMBASSADOR OF
MAURITANIA IN HONOR OF THE NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR
TO BELGIUM AND THE EC, ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR CHAMBERS

AND GENERAL HAIG, AMBASSADOR K'ANG INCLUDED IN HIS COURTLY AFTER-DINNER TOAST EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WORDS OF APPRECIATION FOR HAVING MET AND TALKED WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. SIMILARLY, THE PRC AMBASSADOR DIRECTED FRIENDLY WORDS TO GENERAL HAIG, RECALLING THAT THE GENERAL WAS NO STRANGER TO CHINA AND HAD VISITED THERE.

2. ON JULY 27, AT HIS INITIATIVE, K'ANG, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR CHAMBERS AT THE RESIDENCE, AND REMAINED OVER TEA FOR OVER ONE HOUR. (THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A PRC DIPLOMAT HAS SET FOOT ON A U.S. THRESHOLD IN BRUSSELS).

3. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, K'ANG STAYED AWAY FROM SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR CHAMBERS. AT THE MAURITANIAN DINNER K'ANG ENGAGED IN A TEN-MINUTE PRIVATE CHAT WITH GENERAL HAIG.

4. K'ANG'S ONE RESORT TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WITH THE AMBASSADOR CONCERNED PEKING'S VIEWS ON ZAIRE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE WEST WAS MAKING A MISTAKE IN STRESSING INTERNAL REFORMS WITH MOBUTU AT THIS TIME RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON "THE REAL PROBLEM" WHICH WAS STOPPING SOVIET AND CUBAN AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON SHABA. AMBASSADOR K'ANG AND PRC POLITICAL OFFICERS
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MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS TO EMBOFFS SHORTLY AFTER LAST MONTH'S BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE, ON WHICH THEY SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE WELL BRIEFED.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR K'ANG IS, APPARENTLY BY NATURE, A BIT MORE RESERVED AND FORMAL IN STYLE THAN HIS EXTROVERT PREDECESSOR, HUAN HSIANG, HE IS OBVIOUSLY MOVING BRISKLY ON INSTRUCTIONS TO ESTABLISH EASY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH KEY U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE AREA. CHAMBERS

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